

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

May 13, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that **AARON WERNLE**, age 23, of Troy, Illinois, was sentenced today in Federal District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois for the felony offense of Possession of an Unregistered Firearm, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 5861(d). **WERNLE** was sentenced to 27 months' incarceration, followed by 3 years' supervised release, and was fined \$250.00.

On June 24, 2004, **WERNLE** was arrested by the Troy, Illinois Police Department in possession of the unregistered firearm, more specifically described as an improvised destructive device, a homemade bomb.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort of the Madison County State's Attorney's Office, the Troy, Illinois Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, pursuant to these agencies' participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Madison County State's Attorney's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and is directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard H. Lloyd.